

**INVASIVE SPECIES CONTROL PROJECTS (R1 SMALL GRANTS)  
2015 FINAL REPORT**

Project Title: **Kealia Pond Ungulate Exclusion Fence**

Station: Kealia Pond NWR

Contact Person: Joseph Schwagerl

Project Description: This project is to build a boundary fence around the Kealia Pond National Wildlife Refuge. Kealia Pond NWR is home to two endangered waterbird species, The Hawaiian Coot ('ālae ke'oke'o; *Fulica alai*) and the Hawaiian Stilt (ae'o; *Himantopus mexicanus knudseni*). The refuge was created to protect these endangered species as well as migratory shorebirds and waterfowl that use the wetlands as wintering grounds. Historically the refuge did not have feral pigs (*Sus scrofa*). In the last five years pigs started to appear on the refuge and in the last year or two have exploded to epidemic levels. Feral pigs eat and trample endangered bird nests, eggs, and young as well as destroy waterbird habitat by uprooting native plants and creating muddy wallows. The refuge contains 200-300 acres of upland habitat all of which are currently being impacted by feral pigs. In addition, the feral pigs are regularly impacting the perimeter of the larger pond and the entirety of the smaller wetland ponds. In total, pigs likely are impacting 300-400 acres of the 700 acres refuge. In Hawaii the commonly accepted remedy for dealing with feral pigs is exclusion. We propose to build an ungulate exclusion fence along the refuge boundary and then eradicate the pigs within the refuge. This request is for funds to build the ungulate exclusion fence. Once the fence is completed, the refuge has a plan to eradicate the pigs within the fence.

Invasive Species Targeted: Feral pigs (*Sus scrofa*).

Project Completion Date or Estimated Completion Date: Summer 2016

Project Results: TBD

Number of Acres Treated: 200

Number of Acres Inventoried and/or Mapped: NA

Number of Acres Restored: 200

Total Grant Amount: \$210,000

Breakdown of Expenditures:

<b>Category</b>	<b>Total \$ Spent</b>	<b>% of Total Grant</b>
Equipment/Supplies	\$73,500	35%
Biotech/Contractor Salary	\$136,500	65%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$210,000</b>	<b>100%</b>